

**Preliminary Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/523,979**

**REMARKS**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courteous and helpful interview of February 6, 2007.

Applicants have cancelled the claims to an electric wire per se. The invention of Claim 4 is to a wire harness that has a first electric wire connected to a connector at its end, and a second electric wire connected to another connector at its end that is accommodated in an exterior component in the middle in the longitudinal direction thereof, the first electric wire and the second electric wire each include a conductive core, a coating which is made of synthetic resin and coats the core, a first marking formed by coloring a portion of an outer surface of the coating with a first color which is different from that of the outer surface, and a second marking formed by coloring another portion of the outer surface of the coating with a second color which is different from both the outer surface and the first color. The first marking and the second marking are spaced from each other and arranged in a longitudinal direction of the coating, the length of each of the first marking and the second marking of the second electric wire in the longitudinal direction is shorter than that of each of those of the first electric wire in the longitudinal direction, and the interval between the first marking and the second marking of the second electric wire is shorter than that of the first electric wire, and the first marking and second marking of the second electric wire are exposed from the exterior component at the end of the second electric wire. The second wire is thus readily distinguished from the first wire. Such an arrangement of a wire harness is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

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In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Baker (U.S. 3,197,554). These claims have been cancelled. Claim 4 was rejected as obvious in view of Baker. Reconsideration and renewal of the rejection of Claim 4 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In response to the arguments relative to Claim 4 made in the amendment filed October 10, 2006, the Office Action responds by alleging that a "change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art", and that it would thus "be obvious to use different length marks and different intervals" as in Baker.

Applicants believe that there is more involved than a mere "change in size" in the wire harness of Claim 4. It is a specific relationship of marks, lengths and spacing on different wires that is involved. It is the relationship of lengths of each of a first marking and second marking of a second wire being shorter than those of a first wire, and an interval between marking on the second wire being shorter than those of a first wire. Such an arrangement enables the first wire to be readily distinguished from the second wire in assembling the wire harness.

Claim 4 is to a wire harness having first and second wires with a specific relationship of mark lengths and mark spacings. This is more than merely a change in size of markings on a wire of the Baker reference, and Applicants believe the wire harness as claimed in Claim 4 is unobvious and patentable over the art cited.

In view of the present amendment and the above remarks, Claim 4 is believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

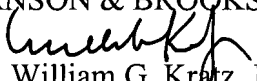
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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